

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, January 29, 2024

Present: Amy Berrier, Dylan Alden, Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Rob Farnum, Wyatt Berrier, Kit Morgan, Suzanne Morgan, & Barb Bloomberg. Marsha Colcord & Humberto Aparicio also attended.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:52 PM

Treasurer's Report

The December Treasurer's Report was approved.

There was a question as to whether TOC will be charged for the ski program week cancelled due to lack of bus drivers. Teresa was not sure. Barb said that Karen Dolan of ESSC is concerned that Tamworth is paying high prices for our children to ski at King Pine, while other towns are skiing for low cost or free at other valley mountains. Barb said that Karen will look into this.

There was discussion about payment at the New Year's Eve dance. At the request of Dudley Laufman, the board had previously approved (via email) the increase in payment from \$300 to \$350 for that dance. There was a donation jar set out as well, with all proceeds from the jar going "to the band" via Dudley. Amy was not comfortable with how that played out. In the future, all donations received "in the jar" will go directly to TOC, not to the band/caller.

Secretary's Report

The December 2023 minutes were approved.

Rebranding ~ Mission Statement:

Barb read the following draft of the new Mission Statement. This draft was formally approved and adopted by the board.

The mission of the Tamworth Outing Club is to organize and host recreational, inclusive activities for the benefit of Tamworth residents and visitors of all ages. We are dedicated to providing year-round opportunities that bring people together for social and recreational enjoyment, as well as an appreciation of our local traditions and the natural world around us. Our goal is to offer relevant programs that engage our community in meaningful ways while continuing to evolve in an ever-changing future.

Rebranding ~ Logo:

Amy shared circular TOC patches which she received from Helen Steele. These were produced in the 1960s and depict (we think) astrological symbols representing earth, fire, water, and air, as well as the Spring and Fall equinoxes and the Summer and Winter solstices. Patches were shared amongst those present.

Building on the ideas previously considered by the board, Amy brought a sketch for a possible logo which includes:

- Trees (based on our current logo)
- The letters T O C
- “Community Recreation for Tamworth Since 1935”

The board agreed that “Tamworth Outing Club” should be spelled out as part of the logo, but not “Community Recreation.....”. Humberto took the concept logo home to work up further possibilities to present to the board.

New Website:

Amy and Wyatt are planning to meet this week to review text, photos, and formatting that Rich Collins is proposing for the new TOC website. His “sandbox site” can be found at tamworthoutingclub.online, which is currently a very rough draft of the final site. Stay tuned.

Sled Dog Fun Day:

The proposed schedule for Sunday is:

- 7:30-8: Mushers and their teams arrive in Wonalancet and get set up
- 8:15-8:30: Mushers' meeting and course review. Volunteers helping out with dogs and on the course should also plan to be at this meeting
- 9: First teams depart from the starting line at intervals TBD
- 10-10:30: Racing wraps up and prizes are awarded
- 10-2: Chinook Owners Association members and their dogs are on hand for "meet & greet," demos, and more. Some other ski jorers and mushers may do demo/training runs around the field trails.
- 8-2: TOC Snack Shack is open, serving baked goods, hot drinks, chili, and hot dogs

There were questions as to why the racing cannot be held later in the morning. Marsha explained that mushers like to get out and run their dogs early, in case the day warms up and temps are too high to race the teams. Publicity will be clear that if spectators want to watch the racing, they should plan to arrive early. Mushers will be encouraged to "hang out" after the racing for "meet & greet" with spectators.

This year's course will be shorter, due to the limited training time that teams have had so far. Probably a 7-10 mile course running towards Great Hill Pond. Marsha will go out on Wednesday, 1/31, to scope out the course and she will let TOC know her plan.

There was discussion about offering prize money. A motion was passed to approve \$750 to be used as follows:

- Prize money will be offered for two classes of racing: 1) 4-6 dog teams and 2) ski joring
- Prizes in each class are \$100/1st place, \$75/2nd place, \$50/3rd place
- \$300 is available for goody bag supplies. These bags will be given to all participants and may include gift cards, dog treats, and musher snacks. Ideas for goodies are welcome and Marsha will coordinate.

Teresa volunteered to be the race time keeper. Amy will put publicity in the Conway Daily Sun. Wyatt will update the poster.

Chinook Trail Farm owner, Al Meissner, has asked about liability for users of trails crossing his land (separate from the existing snowmobile trails). Since there is no charge for this event, State of NH law for recreational use of conservation land very likely protects him as the landowner. TOC will provide a certificate of insurance for Al, similar to what we provided to Remick Museum & Farm when the 5K race crossed that property. Dylan or Sharon will arrange to get this certificate from our insurance company.

See below for more detailed notes about additional "who-does-what" elements of the upcoming SDFD on February 18.

1-29-24 update: **2024 Tamworth Sled Dog Fun Day**, Sunday, February 18 from 8-2

- Two sled dog groups will take part in the day's events: North Country Musers, with organizer Marsha Colcord, and Chinook Owners' Association, with organizer John _____. New England Sled Dog Club teams and/or ski-jorers may also take part in the morning races.
- NCM organizers will recruit teams and set race schedules for morning races (8-10); COA will organize spectator-friendly activities from 10-2.
- NCM teams will run an approximately 7-to-10-mile-long race on the snowmobile trails, starting in the Wonalancet Intervale. Exact course route TBD.
- TOC board approved participation by dog racers using fat tire bikes, snowshoes, skis, and running.
- Al Meisner, owner of Chinook Trail Farm, has given his permission for musher parking to the east of the Wonalancet cemetery. This will be clearly marked with grade stakes and will be plowed by Al. There will be separate parking areas for NCM/NESDC teams and COA participants. There is also the option for parking near Wonalancet Chapel.
- Dylan is organizing volunteers for starting line dog team assistants, Locke Falls Road crossing (Mark), spectator assistance, parking, trash, etc. She will distribute a volunteer list of those helping out so far. Contact Dylan if you know of others who might like to participate. Volunteers should show up by 8 AM or as advised by Dylan. She will also contact the Boy Scouts to see if they would like to volunteer
- Wyatt will create an updated map of musher parking, snack shack location, etc. He will also draft a 2024 version of the event poster, which will be put up around town and emailed to Emily VERNY to include in the Tamworth Town Newsletter.
- Rob and Marsha have signs and snow fencing that will be put up to prevent snowmobiles from straying off their designated trails as they travel through Wonalancet. Marsha will mark the NCM race route.
- Amy will arrange for porta potty rental and will make sure that said potty is well-anchored in the windy fields of Wonalancet.
- Rob will move the snack trailer from Wyatt's to Wonalancet on Friday before the Fun Day. He will also check the generator to make sure it is working. Thad will plow out access to the Snack Shack.
- Dylan has the TOC bullhorn/megaphones and will bring them to Fun Day.
- Fire pits: Mark (and Sharon?) will bring fire pits and wood.

- Barb is organizing food and volunteers at the TOC snack shack. This will be chili, hot dogs (boiled), baked treats, and hot beverages. By donation!
- Spectators can park on the shoulder of 113A and will have good viewing opportunity at any point along the road.
- Spectators will be clearly asked NOT to bring their own dogs to this event. There is a zero-tolerance policy for pet/non-sled dogs at this event. If you see someone with a dog, explain that this is a safety issue and that the dog should immediately be put in the car or taken home.
- Marsha will notify Tamworth Fire, Rescue, and Police Departments, and the local ambulance service about this event.
- Rob will do final grooming of trails in the Intervale on Saturday afternoon.
- TOC board approved \$750 for Sled Dog Fun Day, which includes prizes for two race categories (\$100/1st, \$75/2nd, \$50/3rd) and \$300 for participant goody bags.

Sharon confirmed with Katy Thompson that the Tamworth History Center sled dog exhibit will be open to coordinate with TOC activities in Wonalancet.

Other Business:

Suzanne asked the board if TOC would like to have the Snack Shack at the June 1 Summah Stompah Arts Council music festival. Wyatt and Rob agreed to head up food prep at this event. Everyone agreed that this provides visibility for TOC, even if not much in the way of fundraising.

The meeting adjourned, but this Secretary was too busy chatting to note the exact time.....

Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 6:45 @ Cook Library

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier